

FEB 9 1960

Approved For Release 2005/01/27 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000700450051-3

Congress Widens Its Discussion of Defense Dangers

Symington In Threat to Reveal Data House Leader Blames Admirals

By Robert J. Donovan

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The

great defense debate raged on in Congress today with the House Appropriations Committee chairman blaming everything on "the admirals," while the Navy's top admiral testified that American power could obliterate Russia.

In the midst of it, Sen. Stuart Symington, D., Mo., threatened to disclose secret intelligence figures if the Eisenhower administration does not make it clear that Soviet missile production is increasing.

The Senator, a contender for the Democratic Presidential nomination, told a hearing that Allen Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, had given Congress last week secret information to the effect that the Russian missile threat had "increased considerably" over what it was a year ago.

The momentous defense issue was discussed in both the Senate and the House, and hatracks were set out in committee rooms. The committee rooms were filled with the caps of admirals and generals who were testifying.

Calls Claims "Specious"

The fireworks began in the House where Rep. Clarence Cannon, D., Mo., chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, called Administration claims on military strength "specious" and blamed "the admirals"—he didn't identify them—for what he called Russia's superiority. The admirals were his target because of their "obdurate" insistence in putting huge sums into surface ships. He urged Congress to appropriate more money than President Eisenhower has asked for defense.

Later Adm. Arleigh A. Burke, Chief of Naval Operations and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spent hours before a joint hearing of the Senate Space Committee and Preparedness subcommittee, as well as before a separate hearing of a House Appropriations subcommittee.

Here were some of the highlights of what Adm. Burke told the Senators:

1. He supports President Eisenhower's policy of "massive retaliation."



Arleigh A. Burke, Chief of Naval Operations, testifies before the Senate Space Committee in Washington yesterday.